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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT TOPIC Military Information from Magdeburg

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 26 March 1954REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. At about 10:45 a.m. on 1 February 1954, a truck convoy of about 10 trucks loaded with 25X1 T-girders and winches drove through Magdeburg, coming from Friedrichstadt Railroad Station and proceeding toward the Herrenkrug Kaserne (4283).

2. Between 11 February and 3 March, the following columns crossed the Wilhelm Pieck Brücke (bridge), formerly Nord Brücke, in Magdeburg

At 4:15 p.m. on 11 February: 5 trucks occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black 25X1 epaulets and steel helmets. Two of the trucks towed 57-mm AT guns. A jeep, 21 trucks including an ambulance, 1 radio truck and 2 field kitchens followed at an interval of about 500 meters. Two of the trucks towed 120-mm mortars and other trucks carried 80mm mortars.

The troops on the vehicles wore red-bordered black epaulets with steel helmets and most of them carried submachine 25X1 guns. The vehicles came from a westerly direction and proceeded toward the Herrenkrug Kaserne. 25X1

At 2:50 a.m. on 19 February: 3 T-34/85 tanks and 3 trucks 25X1 toward a westerly direction.

At 3 a.m.: 3 T-34/85 tanks, 1 sedan, about 15 trucks including some loaded with ammunition boxes, 2 ambulances, 2 radio trucks and 1 field kitchen. Two of the trucks towed 100-mm AT guns and six towed other guns.

They drove in a westerly direction.

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At 3:30 a.m.: 18 trucks including some with troops wearing steel helmets, 2 tank trucks, 2 radio trucks and 4 field kitchens.

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The vehicles drove in a westerly direction.

From 6:30 until 7 p.m. on 22 February: About 60 trucks, including 8 towing 85-mm AT guns, 4 towing 57-mm AT guns and 3 towing 120-mm mortars, 8 T-34/85 tanks and 6 armored personnel carriers.

The column came from the direction of Neustadt and proceeded toward the Herrenkrug 25X1 Kaserne, except for two tanks at the rear of the column which entered the Nachrichten

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

2

25X1

Kaserne through gate No 17.

At 7 a.m. on 24 February: about 20 trucks, most of which were radio trucks, and 2 bus trailers.

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The vehicles drove toward a westerly direction.

At 7:30 p.m. on 25 February: about 30 trucks and 4 towing 57-mm AT guns. The vehicles drove toward an easterly direction.

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At 1 a.m. on 26 February: 3 T-34/85 tanks, which were presumably part of a larger column, proceeded toward a westerly direction.

At 8 a.m.: About 20 trucks in a column and about 15 individual vehicles, driving toward a westerly direction.

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Most of the trucks were loaded with telephone masts and boards.

At 8:30 p.m.: about 25 trucks including 3 towing 122-mm mortars drove toward a westerly direction.

At 5 p.m. on 27 February: about 20 trucks including at least 10 large radio trucks and 1 truck with a large two-axle trailer with flat loading area mounting two large drums, one at the front and one at the rear, with a radio mast placed horizontally between the drums.

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The column drove toward an easterly direction.

At 7:15 p.m.: ten trucks with telephone masts drove toward an easterly direction.

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At 10 p.m. on 1 March: 6 T-34/85 tanks, 2 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns and 10 side-car motorcycles drove toward a westerly direction.

At 9:30 p.m. on 3 March: 10 empty trucks drove toward an easterly direction.

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At 7 a.m. on 4 March: 3 jeeps and about 20 empty trucks drove toward a westerly direction.

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3. On 9 March, the following columns crossed the Wilhelm Pieck Brucke toward Haldensleben, coming from the Herrenkrug Kaserne (5253) and Anger Kaserne (5254) respectively:

At 4 p.m.: 12 trucks including and 2 towing AT guns.

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At 4:20 p.m.: 23 trucks with troops.

At 5 p.m.: 83 trucks towing 3 AT guns, 6 other guns, and 2 mortars, 3 armored scout cars and 12 T-34/85 tanks.

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At 6 p.m.: 50 trucks including some towing 15 guns.

At 6:30 p.m.: 20 trucks

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

25X1

4. On 9 and 11 February, the Hindenburg Kaserne (5285) was not occupied to capacity. In the afternoon on 11 February, about 10 trucks [redacted] engaged in practice driving. Four or five antennas were seen in the east section of the installation. On 11 and 16 February, the Flak Kaserne (5282) was occupied to capacity. In the afternoon on 16 February, ambulance [redacted] left the installation through gate No 36 and headed toward the town. On 16, 19, 21, 22 and 23 February, the Nachrichten Kaserne was occupied to capacity. On 16, 21, 23 and 28 February, the Seeckt Kaserne (5287) was heavily occupied. On 28 February, 10 new three-axle trucks were parked at the installation. On 22 February, the Herrenkrug Kaserne (5283) was very lightly occupied and, on 5 March, it was occupied to capacity. [redacted] the installations were fully lighted even though they were not occupied to capacity. On 22 February, the Herrenkrug Kaserne was fully lighted at 6 p.m., while the troops moved in not until 6:45 p.m.²

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1. [redacted] Comment. Probably, shipments of engineer equipment [redacted] belong to the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GFG in the Seeckt Kaserne.
2. [redacted] Comment. It is believed that headquarters units of the Third Shock Army and units of the 195th Gds Mech Div [redacted] included the 105th Sig Regt of the army and the 62d and 63d Gds Mech Regts of the division, conducted increased training in the terrain outside the posts from mid-February up to early March. A large percentage of the troops may have transferred to Letzling-Heath for combat firing practice. Except for fluctuations regarding the strength of troops at the installation, which resulted from training activity outside the post, no changes in the occupation are discernible. [redacted]
3. [redacted] Comment. It is believed that the departure of units of the 19th Gds Mech Div was connected with exercises by units of the Third Shock Army. Indications as to the exercises were loadings in the army area on 8 and 9 March. [redacted]. It cannot yet be said whether these field exercises were conducted in the area of Letzling Heath.

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